

***For Your Information***  
***Weekly***  
**FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF**  
**November 6, 2015**

**THANK YOU TO OUR VETERANS** - We hope you will join us for the Veteran's Day Ceremony in Civic Park next week. The ceremony is hosted by Clewiston High School Public Service Academy. It will all take place at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month. Help us honor those who gave so much.

Putts Fore Pets golf tournament held on Saturday, October 31, 2015 had 18 players and raised money for the Clewiston Animal Shelter. Many thanks to all who supported this cause. Proceeds will provide some much needed supplies to aid animals in need of homes.

Due to the Veterans Day holiday, there will be no solid waste service offered on Wednesday, November 11th.

**Dates to Remember**

November 10, 2015 – Hendry-Clewiston Recreation Board Meeting  
November 11, 2015 – Veterans Day – City offices will be closed.  
November 12, 2015 – City Commission Workshop  
November 16, 2015 – City Commission Meeting  
November 19, 2015 – Golf Course Advisory Meeting

**Staff Reports**

**Community Development Director Reese reports:**

- Construction is progressing swiftly at 1044 West Ventura Avenue, GreenTree Senior Apartments. Eight (8) buildings have their underground plumbing installed, four (4) buildings have the block walls and the trusses are being placed on two (2) of the fourteen (14) total permitted buildings;
- Clyde Johnson Contracting has begun the construction of his new office building located at 1007 West Ventura Avenue. This will be 1,950 square footage office and storage area for his construction business;
- There was a five (5) acre brush fire on Art Lawrence Road that appeared to be a transient camp and was sparked by a cook fire. U.S. Sugar assisted the fire department in extinguishing the blaze;
- The fire department visited the Covenant Daycare on East Trinidad and Rainbow Preschool visited the fire station:

**Library Director Barrett reports:**

- The pre-kindergarten program continues to be offered to approximately 95 children in 4 daycares here in Clewiston. Each week, they hear different stories read to them by volunteers and staff or through the Tumble e-book online series. They are making great progress learning computer skills. This program has certainly caused a lot of excitement. If you would like to send your child or other family member to participate, please call the library for more information.
- The "Sweetest Ever English Café" started last week. Attendees like it so much they plan to come back and bring others with them. This is a program designed for non-native speakers of English who would like to practice their conversational skills in English. Join us for coffee and let's talk every Thursday. You are allowed to bring a friend. Call 863-983-1493 for more information and to register.
- ABCmouse is still free at your library!!! Ask how your children can benefit from this online program at the library.
- The after school tutoring program is going very, very well. This program is for students from grade 1 to grade 5. We have the help of 2 qualified teachers as well as honor students from the high school, but we fear we may need another teacher if the number of students attending continues to rise. Please call for details if you are interested.
- **For information regarding any of our programs, please call the library at (863) 983-1493 and remember to visit [www.hendrylibraries.org](http://www.hendrylibraries.org) Your library truly has a lot to offer.**

#### **Golf Course Director Robbie Rush Reports:**

- Golf Course Maintenance
  - The greens were top-dressed and fertilized.
  - Fairways were treated for fire ants.
  - 8 new cypress trees were planted this week on the golf course, which make the grand total now 14 trees in the last 2 weeks. Thank you Miller Couse and Karl Larson.
- Saturday November 7, 2015 the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Deputy Brian Haas Golf Tournament will take place. The golf course will open for regular play at 2:00 p.m. The tournament starts at 9:00 a.m. and you can register to play by calling (863) 674-5622 or sign-up in the golf shop.
- Thanksgiving Holiday Scramble is Friday November 27, 2015. To sign up call golf shop at 863-983-1448. It's a 3 p.m. start and 9-holes.
- There is a Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting Thursday, November 19, 2015 at City Hall - starts at 11 a.m. and the public is welcome.
- Clewiston Golf Course is now Junior/Kids friendly. We have set up a new short course for the kids. The new tee color is green and measures 1854 yards in distance. Front nine only.
- **Stay up to date with all Clewiston Golf Course news.** Visit the City website at [www.clewiston-fl.gov](http://www.clewiston-fl.gov), follow the golf link and sign up on Constant Contact. You will automatically be added to the golf course e-mail blast.
- Golf lessons available - contact Robbie Rush at (863) 983-1448.

- Get your grips re-done – contact the golf shop at (863) 983-1448.

### **Recreation Director Lance Ramer Reports:**

- Ballfield staff has completed laying new “warning track” and field edging material on fields #1 and #8. They will begin placing the same material around lift stations, wells, irrigation pumps and buildings around Sugarland Sports Complex as soon as more material arrives.
- All game fields have been treated for invasive emergent vegetation and fertilized this week.
- Sugarland Sports Complex will host the Elks District “Soccer Shoot-out” on Tuesday Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.
- Registrations have begun for our “K-6<sup>th</sup> Basketball League” and will continue through Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please go to [www.clewistonrecreation.com](http://www.clewistonrecreation.com) to register your child.
- CHS Boys Soccer 1<sup>st</sup> home game is Friday Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> vs. Cape Coral at 5:30 (JV) and 7pm (Varsity) on Soccer East at Sugarland Sports Complex. Come out and support the TIGERS!
- CHS Girls Soccer next home game will be Tuesday Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm on Soccer West at Sugarland Sports Complex. GO TIGERS!
- Clewiston AYSO continues to play soccer at Sugarland Sports Complex throughout the week and have begun to practice under the lights with the time change.
- Weekly highlights for Clewiston Recreation
  - Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting 7-8:30 p.m. Beardsley Room
  - Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> – Great American Gun Show 9 a.m.-5 p.m. John Boy Auditorium
  - Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> – Birthday Party 1-3 p.m. STP Pavilion #1
  - Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> – Birthday Party 1-6 p.m. SSC Pavilion Park
  - Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> – Baby Shower 2-7 p.m. Trinidad Park
  - Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> – Great American Gun Show 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. John Boy Auditorium
  - Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> – Baby Shower 2-6 p.m. SSC Pavilion Park
  - Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> – Birthday Party 2-5 p.m. Youth Center
- If you are interested in participating in an adult co-ed dodge-ball league or if your kids are interested in a kids basketball league, please contact Andre at 983-1492.
- Please visit [www.clewistonrecreation.com](http://www.clewistonrecreation.com) to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.

### **Police Chief Gutshall reports:**

- Officers have recovered several counterfeit \$100 bills which were passed to merchants this week. One suspect has been arrested although the investigation continues. Additional arrests are possible.
- Patrol responded to a disturbance at a local lounge over the weekend. A patron had threatened the bartender with a handgun. Suspect was located, arrested and charged with a number of offenses including Aggravated Assault with a Firearm, and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon.
- The Department’s Facebook site is now maintained daily under the care of Mrs. Loretta Melanson. Loretta is our newest employee and is proving to be a fantastic hire. Please stop in and introduce yourself to her.

- The Sheriff and I have joined forces by supporting the Public Service Academy in another way. We have declared December as “Double Stubble Month”; employees may contribute \$20 to participate in the event. In return we will waive the clean shaven policy for a period of 30 days for those who choose to contribute toward the program. Please support the beards!
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week’s activity:
  - 1172** Commercial / Residential Security Checks
  - 601** Complaints Investigated
  - 17** Traffic Citations Issued
  - 26** Arrests Made
  - 9** City Ordinance Violations
  - 7** Rental Inspections
  - 55** Merchant Escorts Provided
  - 19** Alarms Responded To
  - 6** Traffic Accidents Investigated

**Utilities Director Williams reports:**

**PLEASE BE AWARE OF UTILITY PAYMENT SCAMS:** Scam artists are calling Utility customers, posing as employees of Clewiston Utilities and threatening disconnection of services if payment is not made immediately. Please be aware of the following.

- 1) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER request you to purchase money cards or gift cards to pay your account over the phone.
- 2) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER contact our customers on the weekend and threaten disconnection of services.
- 3) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER speak to our customers in a threatening tone.

**If you feel you have been a victim of this scam, please contact Clewiston Utilities to verify the call or the Clewiston Police Department and file a report.**

- Water Sewer Activities
  - Repaired water valve at Bass Capital.
  - Changed out several stopped water meters.
  - Assisted South Shore Water with water break at US Sugar.
- Electric Activities
  - Replaced pole and trimmed trees on East Arcade Avenue.
  - Trimmed trees in the alley on East Sugarland Highway (south side).
  - Finished service for Harry Pepper at the levee.
  - Ran three new services.
- Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom or the City’s website page [www.clewiston-fl.gov](http://www.clewiston-fl.gov). You may update your information at any time through the same link.

- If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for these items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you information. You can also visit our website at [www.clewiston-fl.gov](http://www.clewiston-fl.gov) or call our office.
- DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR METER BASED SURGE PROTECTION! Visit our office today.
- ONLINE BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE on our web site at [www.clewiston-fl.gov](http://www.clewiston-fl.gov) or [www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl](http://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl).

**Public Works Director Scheffler reports:**

- Mosquito Control: Trap Counts - Golf Course: 350, Harlem: 200, Sports Complex: 150 and Okeechobee Blvd: 350. Conditions finally allowed an application and the plane was in the air.
- Street Maintenance:
  - Storm drains were cleaned and over 5 tons of silt was removed from the system.
  - Unpaved roads were repaired with shell rock and the grade was set.
  - Staff will start the process of decorating the City for the coming holidays. The scheduled date of lighting is the day after Thanksgiving.
  - Staff pulled unsafe play structures in various parks throughout town.
- US27 Rebuild: Signage and signaling is still the top priority. Contract crews are pulling new wire and getting ready to set some new modern signs. Weekly staff has been cleaning up and once the asphalt has cured the striping will be here.
- Civic Park Rebuild:
  - The Elks have approved the start of the "Entrance Arch" and hand rails with Direct Industrial Products.
  - The details in the columns at the monument area have been taken care of and are scheduled for paint after they have cured.
  - Staff removed a Washington Palm in preparation for the new Ligustrum tree plantings; there are six Ligustrum scheduled to be planted in the park in the next few days.
- Invitation to Bid: We have advertised for two contracts and are looking for a qualified contractor for the following jobs. Replacement of up to 1,500 LF of sidewalk and the painting of five public buildings. For information, bid packets and answers to questions stop by the Public Works office at 1300 South Olympia Street between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.